

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WE OWE OUR VETERANS A LIFETIME OF GRATITUDE AND RESPECT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Once again, we celebrate Veterans' Day. Once again, we have a day off from work. Once again, we may attend ceremonies to honor our veterans. Once again, we will remember briefly the contributions made by so many so that our Nation can remain strong, proud, and free.

The year goes by so fast—and so before we know it, once again, it is Veterans' Day.

This year, let it not slip past us. Let us take this opportunity to honor our veterans by passing along to our children and grandchildren some of our experiences, thoughts, and appreciation for our veterans.

Do our children and grandchildren even know what a veteran is? Do they understand why we honor our veterans? Our kids may play war games, but do they comprehend the incredible sacrifices made by our veterans and their families?

Do they know the stories of their own family members who served, and perhaps were wounded or killed, in the two World Wars, in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and many other conflicts?

Because this year is the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, many of the commemorations will honor veterans of that war. Last weekend, churches and synagogues across the Nation held a National Day of Prayer remembering World War II veterans and their families. If your house of worship participated, be sure to talk to your children about the meaning of this ceremony.

Schools are being urged to participate in National World War II Educational Day, scheduled for November 8. Teachers will be preparing displays and talks centering around the history of World War II and its lessons for today's world. Perhaps a World War II veteran will be visiting your children's school. Ask your children to tell you about the activities at their school. Talk about them over the dinner table.

We can also take our children and grandchildren to one of the many Veterans' Day ceremonies being held throughout the country. This year, ceremonies include the site dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Do your children know that this memorial will soon be built? Do they know that last July a Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC? Perhaps your family could plan a trip to Washington to view this new and powerful memorial—which stands proudly adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—and honors the men and women who served so courageously in Korea.

Many cities across the country will be ringing the Bells of Peace and Freedom 50 times

at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 11. Let us tell our children that the ringing of the bells signifies 50 years without a world war and our hope that World War II will be the final worldwide conflict.

Veterans Day provides us with a unique opportunity to remember and acknowledge that the freedom we enjoy today is due to the sacrifices made by the American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who were willing to fight and die for freedom. We owe our veterans a lifetime of gratitude and respect.

Veterans Day provides us with an opportunity to ensure our democratic way of life by passing along the valuable lessons our veterans have learned to future generations.

It will be time well spent.

LEGISLATION TO HELP KEEP THE TRAINS ON TRACK

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would convert the budget resolution from a concurrent resolution of the Congress into a joint resolution that would require the President's signature and have the force of law.

For the past several months, news reports have been full of discussion about the possibility of a fiscal train wreck. Tomorrow, due to the failure of Congress to pass appropriations bills and a reconciliation bill, 800,000 Federal employees will be sent home and Federal agencies will shut down. Millions of Americans will be without the services of those agencies and will again have to contemplate the absurd process that brought us to this situation.

At the root of the crisis is disagreement between the Congress and the President over big-ticket items in the budget. The congressional leadership is attempting to gain leverage over the President in the budget debate by attaching extraneous, irrelevant, and controversial provisions to such must-pass legislation as the continuing resolution and the debt-ceiling bill. The resulting disruption of Federal services would be a major inconvenience for millions of Americans, and a financial catastrophe for thousands of American families which depend on Federal paychecks.

The legislation I am introducing today is designed to prevent future threats of train wrecks by bringing the President into the congressional budget process at an earlier point. Currently, the President is required to submit a budget at the start of the calendar year. Congress then spends the next few months working on its own budget resolution. The congressional budget resolution is a concurrent resolution of the Congress, which does not have the force of law.

This year, Congress spent the first 100 days of this session working on the Contract With America legislation. As a result, the work on

the budget resolution was delayed. Instead of complying with the April 15 deadline established in the Budget Act, the House did not complete its work on the budget until May 18, and the final budget was not approved until June 29, 2½ months late.

The delay in passing a budget put Congress way behind schedule on the appropriations bills. In addition to putting Congress behind schedule, the budget resolution, passed without Presidential involvement or approval, also put Congress and the President on a collision course on policy. By calling for \$270 billion in Medicare cuts, and \$245 billion in tax breaks, mostly directed to the wealthiest Americans, the budget also created the likelihood of the crisis we face now.

Now, 6 weeks after the start of the new fiscal year, we have still not passed reconciliation legislation, only 3 of the 13 regular appropriations bills have been sent to the President, and the President and the congressional leadership remain sharply at odds over these major issues.

The shame is that this situation could have been prevented. Had the Congress been required to pass a budget resolution that must be signed into law by the President, these issues would have been resolved months ago. Instead of having a legislative showdown that threatens the delivery of Federal services to millions of Americans and the paychecks of thousands of American families, we should have resolved the issues during the spring and summer.

The budget resolution can never be more than a blueprint for Federal spending. The thousands of individual programmatic decisions on spending must be handled in the appropriations process. By making the budget resolution a joint resolution, and giving the President the power to sign it or veto it, we would force the tough decisions between the two branches of Government to be resolved before we reach crisis stage. The result would produce a Government that functioned more efficiently.

In addition to requiring the President to sign the budget resolution, the bill I introduce today would also address the issue of increasing the debt ceiling. In addition to the crisis of shutting down Federal agencies, we also face a potentially far more serious crisis regarding the creditworthiness of the Federal Government.

It is an outrage that the congressional Republican leadership is willing to risk the full faith and credit of the Federal Government in order to achieve its political objectives. Yet that is the situation we face today. Never in the history of our country has the Federal Government defaulted on its financial obligations.

This legislation would automatically increase the debt ceiling with adoption of the budget resolution. Once a budget has been approved, and signed by the President, the amount of debt that will be incurred has been established. It makes no sense to require a separate vote to raise the debt ceiling. Passage of the budget sets the deficit or surplus, and the

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amount, if any, by which the debt ceiling will need to be increased. It is utterly irresponsible, once Congress has authorized a deficit, to refuse to raise the debt ceiling.

The irony of our current circumstances is that the Republican majority in both Houses of Congress has already voted to raise the debt ceiling to \$5.5 trillion, to cover the deficits over the next 2 years. My legislation would give the force of law to Congress' budget policy decisions.

Nobody benefits when the Congress and the President are at loggerheads and the Nation's fiscal credibility hangs in the balance. The American people are sick and tired of the gridlock in Washington. Some in Washington, anticipating the shutdown of Government, have adopted the slogan, "Don't Blink." What they mean is they have their eyes closed right to the damage this train wreck will inflict. The American people are not interested in a Government in which elected officials close their eyes to their responsibilities.

This crisis is of our own making. We can take steps to prevent it from recurring in the future. The legislation I have introduced today will require the President and the Congress to work together much earlier in the budget process, and will help us keep the trains on track.

DEMETRIS KASTANAS HONORED FOR SERVICE TO GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man whose work has touched the lives of millions.

On November 10, 1995, several leading Greek-American institutions will honor Demetris Kastanas for his extraordinary contributions to the Greek-American community over the past 20 years.

Demetris is a media entrepreneur whose television programs and magazine have brought Greek communities in both America and Europe closer together. He has also used this resource and expertise to raise money to help people in need.

Demetris is the president and chief executive officer of National Greek TV of U.S.A., Inc., and Athens Productions, Ltd. He is also the publisher of ESEIS magazine. Both organizations are based on Astoria, NY, with branch offices in Athens and Chicago.

Since 1975, Demetris has been the chief executive producer of the "National Greek TV Show," a weekly ethnic variety program on UHF channels in the Midwest and Northeastern United States produced by Athens Productions, Ltd. It is the longest running Greek program outside the United States.

Since 1987, Demetris has served as chief executive producer of the Greek Channel, a daily cable channel broadcasting Greek programming on the Time Warner cable system. It is produced by National Greek TV of U.S.A., Inc. The Greek Channel broadcasts 19 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In 1988, Demetris began publishing ESEIS, a Greek-American biweekly magazine that is distributed internationally.

For the past 20 years, through his television programs and his magazine, Demetris has

been providing the Greek-American community with news, sports, music, documentaries, cultural, informational, educational and entertainment programs. He has put the power of the media to good use in helping Greek compatriots who have come to the United States seeking medical treatment. He has publicized their cases on television and in his magazine, helping to raise money for their medical expenses.

Demetris has conducted four telethons to raise money for the needs of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York. He has also conducted one telethon for the Greek Children's Cancer Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering, with the second telethon scheduled for December 17, 1995.

So I join with the Pan-Macedonian Association, the Pan-Peloponnesian Association, the Federation of Sterea Hellas, the Cyprus Federation, the Pan-Pontian Federation, and the Pan-Dodecanese Association in honoring this extraordinary man for his contributions to the Greek-American community over the past 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, bringing people together has been Demetris' life's work. And on November 10, the Greek-American community will come together to celebrate his extraordinary service.

And now, to make this year even better, he has taken on his business partner, Norma Papamihaliou, as his wife.

REFLECTIONS ON VETERANS DAY

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, since 1954, our Nation has set aside November 11, formerly Armistic Day, as a special day of tribute and thanksgiving to those who served bravely in our Armed Forces to protect our freedoms. Veterans Day is a day of both sadness and joy: Sadness because we take a moment to honor those who sacrificed everything to keep us free, and joy as we gather to enjoy those sacred freedoms.

This Veterans Day is especially significant because we will continue to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the greatest struggle for freedom in the history of the world. During that struggle, 17 million American men and women answered the call to serve without hesitation. Of those courageous men and women, more than 290,000 made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives for this Nation. Another 670,000 were wounded, and more than 105,000 suffered as prisoners of war. In Washington, DC, a ceremony will be held on the Mall to break ground for the long-overdue memorial to the heroes of this war, who fought around the globe to preserve liberty for future generations.

Nowhere are veterans more important than in Military Town U.S.A. Following the numerous events surrounding this Veterans Day, San Antonio, TX will pay tribute to one of its heroes in that great war to preserve world peace. On November 20, 1943, San Antonio native S. Sgt. William J. Bordelon gave his life for his country and earned its highest military decoration during the U.S. invasion of the South Pacific island of Tarawa. This forgotten local hero is the first San Antonio native to win

the Medal of Honor. On November 20, declared by the mayor of San Antonio as William J. Bordelon Day, S. Sgt. Bordelon will be reinterred at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery following lying in state at the Alamo.

Veterans Day is also a day of education. If we are to preserve the memory of those who fought so valiantly to preserve this Nation and all that it stands for, we must ensure that our children know the history of our veterans' sacrifices and understand the importance of their contributions. Today, more than one-half of the people living in America were born after World War II. If the people of this Nation want to continue to fully experience the joys of life, liberty, and peace, we must ensure that future generations understand just how much we owe to the men and women who made it possible: the American veterans, who were willing to sacrifice everything they had to keep this Nation free.

HONORING THE DICKSTEINS AND THE BILMES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise our colleagues that my home synagogue, Temple Sinai in Middletown, NY, will be honoring two outstanding couples as Distinguished Members of the Year at a banquet to be held on Saturday night, November 18.

Sharon and Allen Dickstein met when both were counselors at a Jewish federation summer camp. After marriage and settling in Middletown nearly a quarter a century ago, they became active members of our Temple. Allen has served on the board of trustees of the Temple continuously since 1973. He was president for the year 1977-78, served on the executive board, and held the positions of USY Director and chairman of the ritual committee. Allen serves our Temple as Gabbai, the lay leader of services. Allen was a founding member of Jewish Family Service and still serves on that group's board of directors.

Sharon is currently on the executive board and board of trustees as second vice-president. She sits on the board of education as executive board liaison, and is a member of the Sisterhood of Temple Sinai. Sharon is a member of Hadassah, and is a founding member of the Hebrew Day School of Orange County.

Together, Allen and Sharon have embodied the spirit of service to community as well as of family values. Allan works as a social worker and has been especially active in establishing shelters for the homeless and teaching classes for expectant parents. Sharon has been an educator for a quarter century, and has served as principal of Bicentennial Elementary School in Port Jervis for the past 6 years. They are the parents of Debra, Joshua, Aaron and Michael.

Frances Eve and Murray Bilmes met on a blind date in March 1954 and married 6 months later. Soon after their marriage, they formed a law partnership which still thrives today. Residents of our region since 1957, they have been members of Temple Sinai since 1960.